

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OIC-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DPW-01 /093 W

----- 042667

R 140527Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4756

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4794

HONG KONG FOR LAHIGUERA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PORG, AORG, AFIN, LA

SUBJ: ICC/LAOS: TIME TO PULL THE PLUG?

REF: VIENTIANE 4239

1. IN REFTEL (SENT TO ALL ADDRESSEES EXCEPT HONG KONG), TO WHICH WE HAVE HAD NO REPLY, WE SUGGESTED THAT TIME WAS OPPORTUNE FOR A MOVE -- SPEARHEADED BY U.K. AS GENEVA COCHAIRMAN -- TO DISESTABLISH THE NOW-ANACHRONISTIC INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION FOR LAOS. TWO NEW DEVELOPMENTS NOW REINFORCE THAT PROPOSAL.

2. FIRST, THE INDIAN CHIEF DELEGATE TO ICC/LAOS AND  
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CONCURRENTLY ICC SECRETARY-GENERAL, AMBASSADOR C.R.

GHAREKHAN, LEFT VIENTIANE WITH HIS FAMILY JULY 9 ON A SHORT-NOTICE TRANSFER TO HANOI, WHERE HE WILL BE AMBASSADOR. HE EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN HANOI -- VIA HONG KONG AND CANTON, STANDARD INDIAN ROUTE -- BY LATE JULY AFTER APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS IN DELHI. HIS TOUR IN HANOI WILL BE UNACCOMPANIED. LOWER-LEVEL INDIAN DELEGATION AND SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL BELIEVE THAT ANOTHER DIPLOMAT WILL BE ASSIGNED TO REPLACE GHAREKHAN HERE, BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHO IT WILL BE. (EMBASSY NEW DELHI MAY BE ABLE TO DETERMINE IF A REPLACEMENT FOR GHAREKHAN IS IN FACT IN THE PIPELINE.)

3. SECOND, ICC/LAOS IS FACING ANOTHER OF ITS REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL CRISES. THE SECOND-HALF CY 75 CRISIS COMES IN JULY RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET CONTRIBUTED A RED CENT OF THEIR 1975 SUBSCRIPTION, WHEREAS THEY -- LIKE THE BRITISH -- NORMALLY PAY SEMI-ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN JANUARY AND JULY. (ACCORDING TO AN INDIAN MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF, THE ICC HAS SENT "AN S.O.S." TO MOSCOW THROUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE, AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY ASSURED THE ICC IN ADVANCE THAT THE MONEY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND THAT THE SIX-MONTH DELAY IN PAYMENT DID NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY TOWARD THE ICC'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE. WE WONDER.)

4. THE SECRETARIAT AVERS THAT WITHOUT THE SOVIET CONTRIBUTION THE ICC WILL HAVE TO CEASE "OPERATIONS" BY AUGUST 10 AND THE GOI, AS GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARIAT, WOULD HAVE TO PAY ANY OUTSTANDING BILLS PENDING REIMBURSEMENT; WITH SOVIET MONEY THE ICC CAN PRESUMABLY LAST A WHILE LONGER, BUT THE REQUEST FOR SECOND-HALF U.S. CONTRIBUTION WILL BE EARLIER AND MORE URGENT. IN FACT, SECRETARIAT WILL PROBABLY MAKE ITS PITCH TO US THIS WEEK.

5. WE THEREFORE REPEAT SUGGESTION THAT DEPT ASK U.K. TO INITIATE A MOVE TO HAVE ICC/LAOS FOLD ITS TENT BY DECEMBER 31. IN THAT WAY, WE COULD TELL THE COMMISSION THAT OUR SECOND-HALF CY 75 PAYMENT WOULD BE THE LAST AND SHOULD BE USED TO COVER CLOSE-OUT COSTS.

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CHAPMAN

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